2008. During the meetings, discussions were held on bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy, energy, defence, science & technology and culture. Regional and international issues of mutual interest, were also discussed.

Production of AJTs in the country

3897. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) Government has received so far recently from abroad;

(b) the total number of AJTs likely to be received from abroad in the near future from various sources;

(c) whether Government is also considering a proposal to start its production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A contract was signed by the Government with M/s BAE Systems UK for procurement of 66 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJTs) aircraft for Indian Air Force. Out of these, 24 aircraft are to be induced through direct supply from abroad and 42 are to be manufactured by M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) under transfer of technology. So far 10 aircraft have been received from M/s BAE Systems UK. All 42 aircraft to be manufactured by HAL are to be supplied by 2010-2011.

IAF aircraft crashes

†3898. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air Force aircrafts crashed in the country during the last five years;

(b) the reasons behind these air crashes;

(c) the number of pilots who have lost their lives in the air crashes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 61 Indian Air Force's (IAF) aircraft have crashed during the last five years (financial years 2003-2004 to 2007-2008).

(b) The main reasons behind these crashes were Human Error and Technical Defects.

(c) A total number of 30 pilots have lost their lives in the air crashes during the said period.

(d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.